

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 30, 2012

Agenda Item: Future Fisheries Projects - Summer 2012 funding cycle

Division: Fish and Wildlife

Action Needed: Approval of Final Action

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

The Future Fisheries Improvement Program provides funds for projects that restore fishery habitats in streams, rivers and lakes for the benefit of wild fisheries. Applications are reviewed twice each year by a 14-member citizen review panel appointed by the Governor or his/her designee. Citizen Panel recommendations are forwarded to the Commission every six months for its consideration and approval. For the Summer 2012 funding cycle, the Citizen Panel recommends funding 8 of 10 submitted proposals at a Program cost of \$126,258. Matching funds or in-kind contributions from outside sources total \$570,855.

Public Involvement Process and Results

The public is informed about Program funding opportunities via news releases, a public meeting, and information posted on the FWP website. The Future Fisheries Citizen Panel conducted a public meeting in Helena on June 28, 2012 to review proposals, discuss proposed projects with applicants in attendance, and receive public comment. The only comments came from applicants attending the public meeting. All applications received for the funding cycle were posted on the FWP website, which allows viewers to submit on-line public comment. No on-line comments were received as of August 10, 2012. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared for each project recommended for funding, with the exception of proposals that fall under categorical exclusions (defined under ARM), the federal National Environmental Policy Act, or ongoing regional processes. The comment period for the EA process ended on August 10, 2012.

Alternatives and Analysis

Alternative A: Approve funding recommendations as submitted by the Future Fisheries Citizen Panel. Funds would assist in the completion of projects that improve habitat for wild fish populations. Alternative B: Disapprove or modify Future Fisheries Citizen Panel funding recommendations. This alternative would result in partial completion or non-completion of habitat improvement projects that are designed to benefit wild fish populations.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the funding recommendations as submitted by the Future Fisheries Citizen Panel (Alternative A). Completion of these projects would benefit wild fish populations.

Proposed Motion

"I move to approve the Future Fisheries Citizen Panel funding recommendations for the Summer 2012 funding cycle of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program."